

Profit And Loss

Discussion of the textile industry these days seems to stem from the fact that there aren't any white shirts on the market. Beginning with this simple problem, you soon become involved in wages, hours, and prices...

ation in PM's next edition, ending with Flynn's statement: "Call me up next week. I'll be pretty busy this week."

Wrong Guesses

There isn't much to be said in defense of a traitor, but Mme. Pierre Laval attained a sort of eloquence as she attempted to explain, through her tears, the path her husband had followed.

It might hold water, this explanation, if Laval had not been so well prepared for the role he played. He had decided, according to his wife's testimony, as early as 1942 that war was coming, and that Germany would win it.

Even this morning, facing a firing squad with the traditional "Vive la France" on his lips, Pierre Laval couldn't understand that he had been guilty of anything worse than his judgment.

Healthy Soldiers

Buried deep in General Marshall's biennial report was the most heartening set of statistics to come out of the war. Despite the fact that we spread troops all around the globe, and concentrated them frequently in the most unhealthy spots on the globe...

It was constant medical care that enabled the soldier to lead an unhealthy life and remain healthy as he had been as a civilian. There must be a lesson in this, apparent even to the American Medical Association...

Intolerance

The Newspaper PM is a journal which fights so hard for tolerance it sometimes froths lightly at the mouth. One of its favorite targets, and one of ours, is ex-Senator Bob Reynolds and his Nationalism, which stands four-square for intolerance.

Last week PM discovered that the New York chairman of the Nationalist Party is employed as a guard at the Brooklyn penitentiary.

Statesmen At Work

MARQUIS CHILDS, the columnist, had written the New York Daily Mirror and sometimes uses the plant phone to discuss nationalism to PM, which also doesn't like the Daily News, this seemed a great opportunity for an expose.

A reporter called Mr. Flynn, News business manager, told him about the derelict guard and demanded, in effect, that he be fired forthwith. Flynn refused, and the result was a column and a half account of the telephone conversation.

Mr. BARKLEY, Mr. President I have not seen the article in the Washington Post written by Mr. Childs and therefore I am making a public comment on it.

Yesterday the President dedicated the one dam in the Tennessee Valley that is not owned by the Federal Government. I assume from what the Senator read of Mr. Childs' article that the President requires the TVA to turn into the Treasury all moneys received, and that thereafter that moneys not be disbursed except upon action by Congress.

Mr. STEWART, Will the Senator yield? Mr. BARKLEY, I yield. Mr. STEWART, Mr. McKellar of Tennessee is an enemy of TVA and Senator Stewart, the junior Senator from Tennessee, arose in the Senate and said:

The Merry-Go-Round

By Drew Pearson

WASHINGTON The War and Navy Departments are trying to push it up, but the whole question of U. S. naval bases on Japanese Pacific islands, has developed into a violent hair-pulling contest among different Government bureaus.

Here is the inside story of the backstage feud. It began over August when the Navy quietly moved in to get control of the Pacific islands. What it wanted was permanent naval governments on the islands, rather than civilian governments under the Interior Department such as now exist in the Philippines, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

To this end, Vice Adm. R. S. Edwards, one of the Navy's top imperialists, drafted a cautious memo listing the major island bases the Navy proposes operating after the war. This was done without telling the Army, which also has a definite stake in the islands, or the Interior Department, which is charged with running island governments.

Truman Acts Fast

The memo was sent to the White House, and much to Admiral Edwards' surprise came back one day later, marked "approved." Below was President Truman's signature. It was initialed also by Truman's chief aide, Rear Adm. James V. Harbo, who had helped prepare the memo.

The Navy was amazed that Truman had made such an important decision affecting vital U. S. policy in the Pacific without consulting the State, War and Interior Departments. But it was also delighted.

A few days later, Acting Secretary of the Interior Abe Fortas, knowing nothing about the President's action, happened over in conference with Acting Secretary of the Navy Sullivan and a group of admirals, and outlined the Interior Department's view of how to handle Pacific islands. He proposed that the Navy and the Interior Department set up a joint committee to study the subject.

Army Steps In

Meanwhile, Assistant Secretary of War Jack McClure had been tipped off regarding the Navy's quiet maneuver, as also were the "Empire Builders" of the Air Force. The latter were especially furious at Truman's action. For the air boys consider these islands vital to B-29 and long range bomber operations. And if the Navy gets control, the Army is hamstrung in exactly the same way as the Navy would not let the Army planes patrol the waters around Hawaii before Pearl Harbor.

So on Sept. 10, McClure drafted a one-page memo which his chief, Secretary Stimson, signed and sent to the President. Stimson pointed out that security is "intermeshed" regarding Pacific island bases and is a "joint problem for both the Army and Navy."

At the same time, the Navy's memo came back from the White House one day later, also marked "approved" and signed Harry S. Truman. It was obvious that the President believed in speed, not consultation.

Simultaneously, Secretary of the Navy Forrestal sent the White House a memo (Sept. 11) asking Truman whether he had approved a "permanent" policy of putting the islands under the Army, as stated in his August memo to the Navy, or a mere "interim" policy as stated in Truman's Sept. 10 memo to the Army.

Forrestal's memo came back from the White House immediately marked "approved as an interim proposition pending the findings of the State-War-Navy Departments."

However, what both the Army and Navy may not know is that the whole question of Pacific naval bases came up at the London Big Five Conference. During private side-talk between Secretary Byrnes and Foreign Minister Bernier, the latter told Byrnes that he was worried over permanent U. S. Navy-controlled bases all over the Pacific.

Byrnes told Byrnes that the Navy's plan looked like a devil's pact with Russia, and that if the islands were to be Navy-held, it gave the Russians a powerful political voice for getting island bases in the Atlantic. It isn't being advertised, but already the Russians have asked for bases at Spitzbergen, Bear Island and Iceland, supposedly for weather observation. However, such bases are near the Great Circle shortcut to New York and London and could become secret rocket-launching bases. Byrnes agreed to discuss the whole matter carefully with the Navy and President Truman upon his return to Washington.

Note—Meantime, the Interior Department hitherto entrusted with governing U. S. islands and territories, has been kept completely in the dark by the Army and Navy.

More Hair-Pulling

Finally, Naval Undersecretary Gates, former New York banker, called Assistant War Secretary McClure and tried to pick up some of the pieces. He suggested that it would be better if the Army and Navy worked things out between themselves without consulting the State Department. Then they could surprise the other Government agencies with an accomplished fact which couldn't be tipped.

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"Oh, there are lots of things to talk about with a returned soldier—tell him how you appreciate the nice things victory brings us, y'know, for instance."

A Russian Alliance

By Dorothy Thompson

NEW YORK GENERAL Marshall's biennial report is one of the greatest documents of this war. It is a pleasure to read a document of so lucid a combination of thought and language as this.

But it is a sobering and disturbing message. The tendency of our people to regard the United States as a self-sustaining, self-defending island in the world is a dangerous illusion. It is not a self-sustaining island in the world as it is right now. It is a self-sustaining island in the world as it was in 1914.

And yet, if we come even strength is no safeguard? The most terrible thing about the world is its definitely unbalanced nature. One—since ancient times—has until our own spoken of the United Nations. Nations have been defeated and yet have flourished; they have not been thrown forward in the dust of the world's civilizations. But the reality of our times is war or death.

What he does not say but what is implicit is "attack without warning." For the new weapons can knock out the country's power of attack in a few short moments or will be capable of doing so in a matter of weeks.

The United States may then have the world's largest and strongest arms and industry. She will not have the power to attack without warning if she remains a general military dictatorship. General Marshall says—and repeats it—"The only defense against this kind of warfare is the ability to defend oneself."

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As General Marshall Says, It Would Be Silly



A Republican View of UNRRA

By Marquis Childs

WASHINGTON Above all, Herter is convinced that America must participate in the relief effort. Unless we do, Western Europe will lapse into anarchy, with some kind of totalitarianism as the eventual outcome.

Time Limit Needed The first two limitations on the use of UNRRA money that he proposes would set a time limit beyond which relief and rehabilitation funds could not be used.

Reports have reached Washington that Russian troops in Czechoslovakia are not only living off the country, but are seeking supplies out of Czechoslovakia back to Russia. These reports may be false or they may be greatly exaggerated. If there was full publicity for all trade in and out of the country, then such rumors could not get started.

Furthermore, the press of the country receiving relief would be permitted to publish statements relating to the operations of the administration in such country, made by the administrative head of the administration's mission in such country. In other words, a political censor would not be allowed to suppress news of the activities of any member of the administration.

He was not content to do so as many traveling Congressmen have done—that is, to stop briefly in the more comfortable capitals and rely on the opinions of our diplomatic and military representatives. Herter got out into the back country and saw conditions for himself.

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People's Program Who Got The Increase?

BY B. C. RISER Lincolnville was born in a cotton mill village and has spent the greater part of his life living in a cotton mill village and working in a cotton mill. Thank God I took time to read the editorial in your issue of Oct. 10.

Several of the mills in our community have not sold a pound of cloth or yarn since the end of the war. They have thousands and thousands of pounds of raw cotton and operating capital tied up in huge inventories and they continue to operate, piling up more goods. Unless they have unlimited capital, they can't keep this up and so the owners are selling a piece of cloth or a pound of yarn.

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